



STONE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of
Health and Chief Public
Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1968

STONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the Stone Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1968 which has been prepared in accordance with Circular 1/69 of the Ministry of Health.

During 1968 the duties of Medical Officer of Health were carried out by Dr. C. R. B. Bamford until he emigrated in May and then by Dr. C. Arthur until 28th October when I took up the appointment.

The report is in the main a statistical presentation of the health of the district, and following are some of its features:-

Population: The population of the Stone Rural District in mid 1968 was 20,390 which is an increase of 100 over 1967.

Births: The number of live births during the year was 305 - a decrease of 37 from 1967. This gives an adjusted live birth rate for the area of 14.2 per thousand (England & Wales 16.9).

Deaths: There were 217 deaths from all causes in the area - an increase of 16 over 1967. This gives an adjusted death rate of 12.7 per thousand (England and Wales 11.9). As in 1967, 3 children died under the age of one year.

It will be seen that the highest single cause of death is ischaemic heart disease (formerly classified as "Coronary Disease and Angina"), the incidence of which continues to rise, especially among men. The other two great killing diseases are cancer of various organs, and cerebrovascular disease (i.e. "strokes"). Five deaths were due to motor vehicle accidents, three more than in 1967.

National Assistance Act - Section 47 No action was taken during the year.

Infectious Diseases 57 notifications of infectious diseases were received most of which were cases of measles. Towards the end of the year Head Teachers reported a rising incidence of chicken-pox and mumps in local schools. In November an outbreak of salmonellosis occurred at Groundslow Hospital. Suitable measures were at once applied for its control and fortunately the infection was soon eradicated.

I would particularly like to express my thanks to the staff of the Department for their work, especially during the absence of a Medical Officer and in introducing me to the area. I am also most grateful to the members of the Committee for their continued interest in Public Health matters.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

M. L. BURR.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1968

<u>Chairman</u>	Councillor	Mrs. F. S. Dainton
<u>Vice-Chairman</u>	"	W. S. Lindley
<u>Other Members</u>	"	A. E. Allinson
	"	T. E. Ball
	"	A. Bartlett
	"	H. Butter
	"	B. J. Davies
	"	Mrs. D.E.L. Dickson
	"	J. K. Evans
	"	S. T. Gartland
	"	Rev. G. F. Greenup
	"	H. Hammersley
	"	G. H. Harris
	"	H. Hine
	"	J. A. Hobson
	"	C. Jackson
	"	Dr. A. S. Law
	"	W. R. G. Lawrence
	"	G. T. Leese
	"	W. Potter
	"	L. A. Sellers
	"	A. M. Timmis
	"	Mrs. F. Wain
	"	H. T. Walton
	"	R. D. Wilkinson
	"	L. J. Willdigg
	"	G.A.H. Williams
	"	F. D. Wood

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS FOR THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health

M. L. Burr, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

C. Arthur, M.B., B.C.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

B. K. Lovatt, M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B.

Certified Meat & Food Inspector

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

Miss E. E. Freakley, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Certified Meat & Food Inspector

Assistant Surveyor and Additional Public Health Inspector

W. D. Davis, M.A.P.H.I., L.E.Lg.S.I., H.N.C.

Additional Public Health Inspector

C. Gaskin, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks

E.J. Bevan (Sick Leave)

Mrs. J. M. Taylor

Miss S. Baker

Mrs. D. M. Rose

A.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Domiciliary Nursing and General Practitionery Services

District Nursing, midwifery and health visiting services are provided by the County Council under the administration of the Stafford Area Health Committee. The Staffordshire Executive Council supplies family doctor services through a number of General Practitioners in the area.

Hospital Services

When required, cases of infectious diseases are admitted to Bucknall Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent.

Out-patients and general hospital services are provided at the Staffordshire General Infirmary and the North Staffordshire Hospital Centre, Stoke-on-Trent. Aged and chronic sick patients are accommodated at Fernleigh Hospital, Stafford and Trent Hospital, Stone. Part III accommodation is provided at Rcseneath, Stone.

Yarnfield Hospital admits convalescent cases from the Stafford General Infirmary and other hospitals in the region.

In the district are also Groundsloe Hospital for medical and maternity cases, Standon Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, and Stallington Hall Hospital for the mentally sub-normal.

School Clinics and Welfare Services

These are held at Eccleshall Methodist School Room, Barlaston Parish Room and Tittensor Village Hall.

Clinics are held at the following times:-

Infant Welfare Centre,	Eccleshall Methodist School Room	: Fortnightly	: Fri. Mornings	
"	"	" Blythe Bridge	: Weekly	: Mon. Afternoon
"	"	" Barlaston Parish Room	: Monthly	: 4th Tues. Aft
				Noons
"	"	" Tittensor Village Hall	:	: 2nd " "

The Staffordshire County Council also provide specialised clinics where defects of speech, vision and hearing and allied conditions can be treated when these are referred following school medical examinations, and by general practitioners, health visitors and others.

Tuberculosis Services

A tuberculosis clinic is held at Stafford General Infirmary to which patients in the Rural District travel. A tuberculosis health visitor is employed by the County Council operating part-time in the area, visiting in the home where appropriate.

Laboratory Services

Specimens of milk, water and sewage effluent samples, together with suspected unsound foods are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Stafford for examination. Chemical analyses are performed by the County Analyst.

Ambulance Services

The ambulance service is provided from Stone Ambulance Station in conjunction with the Stafford Ambulance Station.

Meals-on-Wheels

The National Assistance Act, 1948 (Amended Act, 1962) gave Local Authorities extended powers in the establishment and maintenance of Meals-on-Wheels services. A Meals-on-Wheels service is in operation in the Eccleshall area which is operated by the W.R.V.S. During the year a total of 2,983 meals were supplied.

B.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	60,981
Population (Registrar General Return)	20,390
Number of inhabited houses and flats	6,323
Population density per house	3.3
Rateable value	£840,126
Sum represented by a penny rate	£3,362

INDUSTRIES

Pottery	Electricity Generating Station
Domestic Electrical Appliances ..	Agricultural Engineering
Farming	Armaments Testing
Corn Milling	

GENERAL HEALTH IN THE AREA INCLUDING VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics give in the form of tables, details of births and deaths and other various rates which are compared with those for England and Wales. Being based on a smaller population, the individual examples are more subject to variation than where larger populations are involved, and interpretation can be misleading unless this is taken into account.

Table No. 1

	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths of Infants under one year of age	Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age	Deaths of Infants under one week of age
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Legitimate	143 140	- 4	- 1	- 1	- 1
Illegitimate	10 12	- -	1 1	1 1	1 1
Total	153 152	- 4	1 2	1 2	1 2

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE

Table No. 2

Comparability Factors	Births 0.95	Deaths 1.20
	<u>Stone R.D.</u>	<u>Eng. & Wales</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.0	16.9
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	14.2	--
Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	13	14
Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.6	11.9
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	12.7	--
Death Rate for infants under one year per 1,000 Live Births	10.	18.
Death Rate for infants under four weeks per 1,000 Live Births	10 .	12.3
Death Rate for infants under one week of age per 1,000 total Live Births	10.	10.5
Still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	22.7	25

Table No. 3

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total	1967
B4 Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	-	1	1
B5 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	1	1	-
B17 Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	1
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	4	-	4	9
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	9	-	9	11
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	4	4	2
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	5	5	2
B19(5) Leukaemia	-	1	1	2
B19(6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	13	8	21	21
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1	-
B46(1) Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1	1	-
B23 Anaemias	1	-	1	-
B46(3) Mental Disorders	1	-	1	-
B46(4) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	1	2	-
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	2	3	-
B27 Hypertensive Disease	2	1	3	2
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	33	18	51	40
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	6	9	15	12
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	21	15	36	37
B46(5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	3	10	12
B31 Influenza	1	-	1	-
B32 Pneumonia	6	2	8	12
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	1	8	13
B33(2) Asthma	-	1	1	-
B46(6) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2	4	1
B34 Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1	3
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1	-
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2	-
B46(7) Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	4	5	-
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1	2
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1	-
B46(8) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1	-
B42 Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1	2
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	-	1	1	-
B44 Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	2	-
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	1	5	2
BE48 All Other Accidents	3	-	3	2
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-	1	3
32 Other defined and Ill-defined Diseases	-	-	-	9
TOTALS	131	86	217	201

Table No. 4

<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>				
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
On Register at 31st Decmeber, 1967	3	5	-	1
New cases notified or transferred in during 1968	-	1	-	-
Deaths during 1968	-	-	-	-
Removed from Register on transfer out or recovery during 1968	1	3	-	-
Total remaining on Register at 31st December, 1968	2	3	-	1

Table No. 5.

Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register for the District at the end
of the last five years

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
1964	21	5	3	5	34
1965	21	7	3	5	36
1966	23	7	2	6	38
1967	3	5	-	1	9
1968	2	3	-	1	6

Table No. 6

INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The following table shows the number of infectious and notifiable diseases sent in by Medical Practitioners during the year 1968.

	1st. Qr.	2nd. Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total 1968	Total 1967
Scarlet Fever	-	-	10	2	12	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	16
Measles	-	4	27	8	39	313
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	3	-	3	+
* Not notifiable in 1967.						

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REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
ON THE
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA

-oOo-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The following samples of water were taken during the year for bacteriological and chemical analysis:-

<u>Bacteriological</u>					<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Well	...	...	...	...	4	6
Spring	...	...	...	...	1	1
Borehole	...	...	...	...	4	Nil
Main	...	...	...	...	20	Nil
Total					29	7

Chemical

Well	...	...	...	...	7	3
Spring	...	...	...	...	1	Nil
Borehole	...	...	...	...	3	1
Main	...	...	...	...	1	Nil
Total					12	4

Two samples were taken from Trentham Swimming Pool during the season, both of which were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

Barlaston Parish

Rough Close Following the breakdown of negotiations to connect to the Strongford Works, general approval was given by the Blythe Valley Joint Authority to connection to the Blythe Valley sewer. A survey was carried out and plans were well in hand.

Barlaston Culvert Culverting of the ditch at the rear of Meadow Road was completed.

Chebsey Parish

Satisfactory progress was made in the construction of additional settling tanks, bacteria bed and humus tank at Norton Bridge to deal with the new housing development.

Eccleshall Parish

The proposal to connect to the Royal Ordnance Factory Works at Swynnerton was deferred for twelve months until January 1969 due to financial considerations.

Fulford Parish

During the year work was completed on the laying of the sewer, and the pumping station at Moss Gate was also completed. When final testing of pumps has been finalised this scheme will be operational. The work of relaying the sewer in Adamthwaite Drive, Blythe Bridge was in hand.

Parishes of Hilderstone and Milwich

The amended proposals for a joint scheme to provide a combined scheme for the two villages were submitted to the Ministry. Negotiations are now in hand with the Staffordshire County Council for a ruling on financial contribution.

Stone Rural Parish

Meaford During the year a scheme was submitted to the Ministry who suggested that an alternative site should be considered. The matter was then referred to Trent River Authority for their comments and suggestions. At the end of the year these were still awaited.

Swynnerton Parish

Strongford Overhead Sewer Work of lagging was carried out during the year.

Hauchurch This scheme was deferred for twelve months until January, 1969 due to financial considerations.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection. The collection of household refuse is carried out from the whole of the Rural District and for this purpose the Council employ four vehicles, (3 compressmore and 1 crushloader diesel), three of which are in regular service and the fourth is available for special collection from certain establishments and emergency use.

Collection from 6,391 houses and 638 other premises is carried out at approximately 10 day intervals, and some 38,586 miles were covered by the vehicles.

Disposal. All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at a central tip situated at the Royal Ordnance Factory Site at Swynnerton.

Salvage Collection. Due to the high cost involved in collecting salvage, this service is not undertaken.

NightSoil Collection. The collection of night soil has continued to decrease during the year in part due to connections to new sewer extensions and to septic tanks installed under the improvement grant scheme.

The Council still operate a free annual service for domestic septic tanks.

HOUSING

A. Repair - Housing and Public Health Acts

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Total number of houses repaired in consequence of informal action (all Acts) | 21 |
|--|----|

Section 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1957

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 2. Number of notices served: Informal - Nil, Formal - Nil. | |
| 3. Number of houses rendered fit after service of notices:- | |
| a) By owner | Nil |
| b) By Local Authority | Nil |

B. Beyond Repair - Housing Act, 1957

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of undertakings accepted | 1 |
| 2. Number of Closing Orders made | 1 |
| 3. Number of Demolition Orders made | 9 |
| 4. Number of houses demolished following Demolition Orders. | 7 |

C. Clearance Area

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Number of areas represented during the year | 1 |
| 2. Number of houses included | 3 |
| 3. Action taken during the year:- | |
| (i) Houses demolished by Local Authority or owners:- | |
| a) Unfit | 7 |
| b) Others | Nil |
| (ii) Numbers displaced:- | |
| a) Individuals | Nil |
| b) Families | Nil |

D. Improvement Grants

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Standard Grants:- | |
| (i) Number of applications received:- | |
| a) Owner/occupiers | 5 |
| b) Tenanted houses | 3 |
| (ii) Number of grants paid during the year | 2 |
| Value of grants paid | £258 |
| 2. <u>Discretionary Grants</u> | |
| <u>Conversions.</u> | |
| (i) Number of applications received | 2 |
| a) Owner/Occupiers | - |
| b) Tenanted houses | 2 |
| <u>Improvements</u> | |
| (i) Number of applications received:- | |
| a) Owner/occupiers | 17 |
| b) Tenanted houses | 3 |
| (ii) Number of grants paid | 32 |
| Value of grants paid | £8,562 |

E. Rent Act, 1957

Applications for Certificate of Disrepair... Nil

General

Number of houses erected during the year:-

1.	By Local Authority (houses and flats)	...	...	...	68
2.	By private enterprise	...	...	...	53
Total					<u>121</u>

Number of Council owned dwellings at 31st December, 1968:-

1.	Erected up to 1940	...	...	...	93
2.	Erected between 1947 and 1967	...	...	...	990
3.	Erected during 1968	...	...	...	68
4.	Purchased from private owners	..	...	...	23
Total					<u>1,174</u>

Welfare Units

Eccleshall This unit comprises of 12 flatlets and 14 flats with general welfare facilities for the elderly, a warden's flat and 4 flats on the second floor for general housing allocation. During the year two flats have been re-allocated.

Barlaston During the year plans progressed for the provision of a Welfare Unit in Barlaston. It is proposed that this should consist of 26 bedsitters 5 one bed two person unit, a guest room, a warden's flat and includes general welfare facilities for the elderly.

Housing Survey

Owing to pressure of other work it has not been possible to proceed with the survey of parishes.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

The following table gives details of meat inspection at the three private slaughterhouses during the year 1968.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	273	Nil	73	1,797	355
Number Inspected	273	Nil	73	1,797	355
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3.6%	-	-	1.9%	.29%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration					

One slaughterhouse completely suspended killing for 4 months in the early part of the year which probably accounts for the decrease in numbers killed over the year.

Regular meat inspection is carried out and all meat killed in the slaughterhouses is inspected as soon after slaughter as possible. Apart from public holidays most of this work is carried out during normal office hours.

Weight of meat condemned:-

1.	Tuberculosis.....	Nil
2.	Other diseases or condition	<u>140</u> lbs.
		<u>140</u> lbs.

The condemned meat at the slaughterhouses and butchers' premises was disposed of by the butchers to manufacturers of animal by-products in accordance with the Meat (Staining and Sterilising) Regulations, 1960.

Three slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard were licensed during the year. Eleven men were licensed to stun and slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958. A detailed inspection of the slaughterhouses is carried out from time to time in order to ensure that as high a standard of hygiene as possible is observed.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises and Food Shops

The number and types of food businesses carried on in the Stone Rural District are as follows:-

Butchers.....	8
General Provisions.....	40
Bread, cakes and sugar confectionery.....	5
Catering.....	13
Greengrocery.....	4
Baking and bread etc.....	1
Public Houses.....	41
Factory canteens.....	4
Clubs.....	10

Inspections were carried out during the year to ensure that the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 were being complied with. Byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food are in operation in the district and are administered in conjunction with the above Regulations.

The following amount of food other than butchers' meat was found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered by the owners:-

Cooked meat and meat products.....	83 lbs.
Other canned food	19 lbs.
Frozen Foods.....	138 lbs.
Packet Food (Stuffing).....	<u>14</u> lbs.
	<u>254</u> lbs.

Manufactured Food. Six butchers' premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the preparation and manufacture of sausage and pressed meat intended for sale for human consumption.

Ice Cream. There are now 49 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream in the area. Of these 48 are at present retailing. All the premises sell prepacked ice cream.

Milk Sampling. Routine sampling of milk is undertaken by the Sampling Officers of the Staffordshire County Council.

The following samples were taken:-

Bacteriological examination.....295
Biological test for tuberculosis.... 4

All samples tested for tuberculosis proved negative and of the 425 submitted for bacteriological examination 7 failed the methylene blue test.

Reports were received on 30 samples of milk tested for Brucella abortus. Two of these samples were positive and a notice under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations were served on one of the producer retailers but the other was already sending all milk for heat treatment.

Food Poisoning. 10 cases of food poisoning were notified by the Public Health Laboratory during the year, 6 of these being in two families and the others being individual cases.

Diseases of Animals. During the year 54 notifications of suspected Anthrax were received but all were subsequently withdrawn.

GENERAL

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Number on Register at end of year38
Number of inspections for all purposes..... 8

All the factories are mechanically powered. It was not found necessary to serve any notices during the year.

Outworks

No notifications were received of outworkers employed in the district.

Shops Act, 1912-1950

Due to pressure of other work very little work has been done in this direction.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

During the year work proceeded slowly on detailed inspection of registered premises. Minor contraventions were found in 8 premises. There are 73 premises on the register including 18 offices, 35 retail shops, and 20 catering establishments.

A general inspection of 22 premises was carried out and a total of 42 visits were made. Contraventions in relation to temperature, ventilation, eating facilities and first aid equipment were found and put right by informal action.

Petroleum Acts

Sixty-eight licences were issued during the year for the storage of 96,500 gallons of petroleum spirit. In addition four licences were issued for the storage of 5,800 gallons of petroleum mixtures.

Cinematograph Acts, 1909-1952

Theatres Act, 1843

Theatres Act, 1968

2 licences were issued during 1968 by this authority and 2 by the Staffordshire County Council pending delegation of powers under the new Act. Visits and inspections were made in conjunction with the Staffordshire County Fire Service to ensure that the premises were satisfactory from the point of view of lighting, seating, sanitary accommodation and means of escape in case of fire.

Rodent Control

The Council continues to employ a full-time Rodent Operative and the following shows the type of premises and number of visits made:-

Council Sites - Tips, Sewage Disposal Works, etc.

No. of sites visited.....	15
No. of visits for treatment.....	277

Council Housing Sites

No. of sites visited.....	14
No. of visits for treatment.....	57

Private Property

No. of houses visited.....	89
No. of visits for treatment.....	107

Business Premises

No. of premises visited.....	23
No. of visits for treatment.....	31

Farm and Business Contractors

No. of contracts.....	37
No. of visits made.....	380
No. of visits for treatment.....	223
No. of farms surveyed.....	5

The farm contracts enable farmers to avail themselves of a twelve monthly service for the clearance of rats and mice. The suspension of work on farms due to Foot and Mouth precautions was lifted at the end of April.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Three premises were registered during the year for the boarding of dogs. Inspections were carried out to ensure that the premises were kept in a satisfactory condition.

Pet Animal Act, 1951

No licences were issued under this Act.

Rag Flock and Other Materials Act, 1950

There are no premises registered under this Act.

